

Issue 8 — September 18, 2002

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SWS calls for 2002-03 administrative grant proposals Awards to institutions will fund program improvements

This year, the Higher Education Coordinating Board will again award grants to institutions to fund administrative improvements in the State Work Study (SWS) program. These one-year administrative grants help participating schools raise the quality of SWS program services.

The Board is asking for proposals that foster quality job placements, bring needed efficiencies, and promise collaborative approaches. Funds can be used to pay for staffing, training, technology, promotion of student employment, and other activities.

Proposals should request funding levels needed to accomplish the goals of the project. In order to distribute funds more widely, most grants awarded to individual schools are expected to range from \$2,500 to \$5,000. Collaborative proposals from more than one school could anticipate larger amounts.



Higher Education
Coordinating Board

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The deadline for applications is Thursday, Oct. 31, 2002. Awards will be announced by Nov. 15, 2002.

If you want to request an application or talk over ideas for a proposal, contact Betty Gebhardt at bettyg@hecb.wa.gov or (360) 753-7852.

Updates posted to SNG Archive, TRIO and GEAR UP eligibility rosters

Board staff has updated the State Need Grant (SNG) Archive and published rosters of students eligible for the GEAR UP scholarship and the TRIO/SNG award. Aid administrators may access this information, needed to award students in these programs, at the [HECB password-protected Web site](#).

The SNG Archive now includes reconciled student data through the 2001-2002 award year. It contains a list of all SNG recipients who owe a repayment, have exhausted their 10 semesters/15 quarters of SNG eligibility, or are within five quarters of exhausting their SNG eligibility. Schools are required to check their student data against the Archive to verify that no ineligible student is being offered a State Need Grant.

The rosters of students eligible for the TRIO/SNG award and the GEAR UP scholarship now include 2002 high school graduates from those programs. For questions about SNG or TRIO awards, contact Chris Leeper at chrisl@hecb.wa.gov or (360) 753-7840. For more information about GEAR UP, contact Susan St. George at susans@hecb.wa.gov or (360) 753-7834.

Unit Record Reports for 2001-02 due Oct. 14

Edited Unit Record Reports for the 2001-02 academic year are due at the Board no later than Oct. 14, 2002.

The Board's [Unit Record Web site](#) contains the Unit Record manual, instructions for downloading, installing, and using the Data Entry/Edit program, and other information needed to complete the report.

Please contact Bruce Parrish at brucep@hecb.wa.gov or (360) 753-7853 if you have any questions.

Because Unit Record data help support the need for funding state financial aid programs, it is critical that all institutions submit their reports on or before Oct. 14.

Board seeks input on technology redesign

Feasibility study will propose changes to information services systems

The Higher Education Coordinating Board has undertaken a feasibility study for a potential redesign of its information services systems. Milestone Technology, the Board's consultant, is now gathering input to ensure that proposed new systems

would improve the Board's ability to interact more efficiently with colleges and universities.

The Board encourages institutional representatives to complete Milestone's electronic survey — available at www.hecb.wa.gov/surveys/itsurvey.asp. In addition to aid administrators, the Board is asking for survey responses from college and university business officers, student employment administrators, information technology staff, and others who may have a stake in helping the Board develop more responsive information services systems.

Washington higher education fact book now available online

"Key Facts" answers common questions about higher education

Do you need to know the headcount at the University of Washington Bothell campus? How about the number of Washington students in engineering programs, the race/ethnicity of college and university faculty by sector, or the average State Work Study participant's earnings in 2000-01?

You can find these facts and many more in the Higher Education Coordinating Board's new publication, ["Key facts about higher education in Washington."](#)

The August 2002 publication brings together basic information about higher education in the state, organized under five major headings:

- Colleges and enrollments;
- Students, faculty, staff;
- Readiness, participation in college, transfer, achievement;
- Higher education finances; and
- Financial aid

The publication is available online by clicking on the report title, above.

Student named to Higher Education Coordinating Board

Gov. Gary Locke has named Stacey Valentin as the first student member of the Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Valentin, 23, is a senior at Western Washington University, majoring in history and special education with a minor in social studies.

As a member of the Washington Student Lobby, Valentin was instrumental in getting the Legislature to pass House Bill 2841, which added a student member to the citizen Board and raised its total membership to 10.

You can read the Board's press release announcing Valentin's appointment online: ["First student named to Higher Education Coordinating Board."](#)

Department of Education awards four new GEAR UP grants to Washington partnerships

This week the U.S. Department of Education awarded new five-year GEAR UP grants to four local partnership groups in Washington. Only California, with 10 awards, and Texas, with five, received more GEAR UP awards than Washington.

GEAR UP, which stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, motivates students from low-income and disadvantaged backgrounds to stay in school, study hard, and prepare for college. The program links colleges and universities, schools, and community organizations to improve teaching, support the efforts of parents, and prepare middle and high school students for college.

The lead organizations of the four winning GEAR UP partnership are Central Washington University, The Evergreen State College, Washington State University, and the Wenatchee School District. The four new Washington grantees join a state GEAR UP program led by Gov. Gary Locke and administered by the Higher Education Coordinating Board, and six local GEAR UP partnership programs in Pasco, Renton, Seattle, Tacoma, Yakima, and the Lower Yakima Valley.

A complete list of GEAR UP awards across the nation is available on the Department's Web page: [GEAR UP awards](#).

Hope and Lifelong Learning tax credits go mostly to middle- and upper-income families, GAO finds

Two federal tax credits enacted in 1997, intended to help all students pay for college, primarily assist middle- and upper-income students according to a U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) report released on Sept. 16.

According to an article in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, the GAO findings are of little surprise to aid administrators, policymakers, or lobbyists.

Advocates for financially needy students have long criticized the tax credits as government handouts to middle- and upper-income families. Poor families and independent students, they argue, typically don't earn enough to owe federal taxes, and as a result cannot take advantage of the tax credits.

Terry W. Hartle, a senior vice president at the American Council on Education, said helping middle- and upper-income students is what Congress wanted. "Some may disagree with the policy," Hartle said, "but the credits do what Congress intended."

You can find the report, "Student aid and tax benefits" (GAO-02-751), on the [GAO's Web site](#) under "GAO Reports." The *Chronicle* article is available online to

subscribers: ["Tax credits aid students from middle- and upper-income families most, GAO report says."](#)

Merit scholarships perpetuate inequity, new study finds

State merit aid administrators rebut criticism of Harvard research

New research released by The Civil Rights Project at Harvard University finds that publicly funded scholarships in the United States mainly help students who would go to college anyway. According to the online report, ["Who should we help? The negative social consequences of merit scholarships,"](#) state merit scholarships are being awarded disproportionately to students from middle- and upper-income families, as well as white students — populations that historically, and today, have the highest college participation rates.

"We are in the midst of a destructive set of federal, state, and local changes in higher education policy that limit the ability of minority and low-income families to go to college," said Gary Orfield, co-director of The Civil Rights Project.

The report was released one day before the opening of a merit aid conference sponsored by the National Governors Association and the state of West Virginia. According to an article in the *Chronicle*, some participants chose the conference as a venue to fire back at the report.

In his research, Kenneth E. Redd, director of research and policy for the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, found that merit-scholarship recipients were just as likely as all other undergraduates to receive need-based aid. He noted, for instance, that 24 percent of 1999-2000 merit aid recipients also received a Pell Grant, while only 19 percent of all undergraduates received a Pell.

Articles in the *Chronicle*, summarizing the Harvard report and responses to it, are available to subscribers: ["State-based merit-aid programs do little for needy students, report says"](#) and ["Speakers rebut criticism of state-based merit aid, saying plans help needy students."](#)

Financial concerns keep Latinos from earning degrees

Latino high school graduates enroll in college at a higher rate than non-Hispanic white students, but are far less likely to earn a four-year degree, according to a new report by the Pew Hispanic Center.

The report suggests that financial pressures, not a lack of interest in higher education, hold Latino students back. Many enroll in two-year community colleges rather than four-year institutions, take partial course loads, and have to work to supplement family incomes.

In a Sept. 5 *New York Times* article, Richard Fry, author of the report, and Robert Suro, director of the Pew Hispanic Center, argue that these findings suggest an opportunity for policymakers. "A large proportion of Latino students," said Fry, "have completed high school, gone through the steps to be admitted to college and want to improve their educational status."

According to Suro, Latinos who enroll in college represent "the low-hanging fruit," whose degree completion rates can be increased through more generous financial aid and other incentives. "They're already on campuses and enrolled," said Suro, "and the problems that are keeping them from graduating are not overwhelming."

The report is available online: "[Latinos in higher education: Many enroll, too few graduate](#)." The *Times* article is not available for redistribution.

A primer on the freshman class of 2002

Beloit College in Wisconsin has released its annual "mind-set" list to help college faculty and administrators understand this year's entering class of students. The list notes that most freshmen were born in 1984, remember only Southerners as presidents, never experienced AT&T's phone monopoly, and think George Foreman's one claim to fame is as a barbecue grill salesman.

Other characteristics of the new freshman mind-set:

- Barbie has always had a job;
- Connie Chung and Geraldo Rivera were never serious journalists;
- The "evil empire" has moved from Moscow to a galaxy far, far away;
- Women have always had tattoos; and
- Vanessa Williams and Madonna are aging singers.

The list is available online to *Chronicle* subscribers: "[Beloit College releases its annual guide for understanding freshmen](#)." Read it and weep.